

Serial No.: 10/507,467

Office Action Date: November 1, 2007

Amendment Dated: December 4, 2007

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claim 23 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A device for the supply of a gas to an area, comprising:

a supply conduit, which is connectable to a gas source and which includes an outlet end;

a porous body, which is manufactured of a foam rubber-like material and is provided at said outlet end, wherein the device is arranged to transmit said supply of gas through the porous body to create a protective gas atmosphere in the area;

a filter arranged on the supply conduit for filtering said supply of gas flowing through the supply conduit; and

an attachment member including a first surface, a second surface, a sleeve extending outwardly away from the porous body and being connected to the outlet end, and a continuous channel extending through the sleeve, said second surface, and the first surface, respectively;

wherein the porous body is attached to said first surface and wherein the outlet end is connected to the attachment member for transmitting said supply in a direction through said outlet end, said channel and said porous body, respectively, for creating said protective gas atmosphere.

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2. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said first surface of the attachment member covers substantially the whole porous body seen in a first direction extending from the attachment member through the body.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the sleeve extends in a direction forming an angle to the first direction x, wherein said angle is 0 to 90°.

5. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the supply conduit projects into the sleeve, or that the sleeve projects into the supply conduit.

6. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 2, wherein the attachment member and the porous body are substantially circular seen in the first direction

7. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 6, wherein the porous body has a substantially semispherical surface which faces away from the attachment member.

8. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the supply conduit includes at least a first conduit portion with a casing of a material, which has a large flexibility, and with a means for stiffening, which extends along the casing and has a lower flexibility than the casing.

9. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 8, wherein the stiffening means is plastically deformable.

10. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 8, wherein the stiffening means includes a metal wire.

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11. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 8, wherein the stiffening means extends substantially freely within the first conduit portion of the supply conduit.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the foam rubber-like material includes polyurethane foam with open cells.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the porous body includes a homogenous body.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said gas includes a main component which is carbon dioxide.

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18. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the porous body is arranged to supply said gas in a control flow in order to enable deformation of a gas cushion, which is intended to substantially fill a volume at said area and thus prevents air from the surroundings to reach said area.

19. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said area adjoins an inner portion of the body of a human being or an animal, which portion is open outwardly towards the surroundings, wherein the porous body is arranged to be located at said outwardly open inner portion.

20. (Previously Presented) A device for the supply of a gas to an area, comprising:

a supply conduit connectable to a gas source, including an outlet end;  
a filter arranged on said supply conduit for filtering said supply of gas flowing through said supply conduit;  
an attachment member connected to said outlet end and including a first surface, a second surface located opposite said first surface, a sleeve connected to the outlet end, and a centrally located continuous channel configured for receiving said supply conduit and extending through said sleeve, said second surface, and said first surface, respectively; and

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a porous body provided at said outlet end and having a proximal end attached to said first surface and a distal end free of attachment, the porous body being in direct fluid communication with said supply conduit and arranged to transmit the supply of gas in a direction through the outlet end, the channel and the porous body, respectively, for creating a protective gas atmosphere in the area, said sleeve extending outwardly away from the porous body.

21. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 20, wherein said porous body is manufactured of a permeable material including at least one of paper, felt, sinter metal and filter material.

22. (Previously Presented) A device for the supply of a gas to an area, comprising:

    a supply conduit connectable to a gas source and including an outlet end;  
    a filter arranged on the supply conduit for filtering said supply of gas flowing through the supply conduit;  
    an attachment member including a first surface, a second surface located opposite said first surface, a sleeve connected to the outlet end; and a continuous channel extending through said sleeve and said second and first surfaces, respectively; and

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a porous body projecting from said first surface in a direction opposite from said sleeve, said porous body having at least twice the thickness of said attachment member;

wherein said porous body is in direct fluid communication with said outlet end to transmit the supply of gas in a direction through said outlet end, said channel and said porous body, respectively, for creating a protective gas atmosphere in the area.

23. (New) The device of claim 1 wherein said filter is configured to purify said gas from particles and microorganisms.